
SENATE BILL 5675

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Murray and Kline

Read first time 01/29/2007. Referred to Committee on Labor,
Commerce, Research & Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing minimum industrial insurance
2 benefits; amending RCW 51.32.050 and 51.32.060; reenacting and amending
3 RCW 51.32.090; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.32.050 and 1995 c 199 s 6 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Where death results from the injury the expenses of burial not
8 to exceed two hundred percent of the average monthly wage in the state
9 as defined in RCW 51.08.018 shall be paid.

10 (2)(a) Where death results from the injury, a surviving spouse of
11 a deceased worker eligible for benefits under this title shall receive
12 monthly for life or until remarriage payments according to the
13 following schedule:

14 (i) If there are no children of the deceased worker, sixty percent
15 of the wages of the deceased worker (~~((but not less than one hundred
16 eighty five dollars))~~);

17 (ii) If there is one child of the deceased worker and in the legal
18 custody of such spouse, sixty-two percent of the wages of the deceased
19 worker (~~((but not less than two hundred twenty two dollars))~~);

1 (iii) If there are two children of the deceased worker and in the
2 legal custody of such spouse, sixty-four percent of the wages of the
3 deceased worker (~~((but not less than two hundred fifty three dollars))~~);

4 (iv) If there are three children of the deceased worker and in the
5 legal custody of such spouse, sixty-six percent of the wages of the
6 deceased worker (~~((but not less than two hundred seventy six dollars))~~);

7 (v) If there are four children of the deceased worker and in the
8 legal custody of such spouse, sixty-eight percent of the wages of the
9 deceased worker (~~((but not less than two hundred ninety nine dollars))~~);

10 or

11 (vi) If there are five or more children of the deceased worker and
12 in the legal custody of such spouse, seventy percent of the wages of
13 the deceased worker (~~((but not less than three hundred twenty two
14 dollars))~~).

15 (b) Where the surviving spouse does not have legal custody of any
16 child or children of the deceased worker or where after the death of
17 the worker legal custody of such child or children passes from such
18 surviving spouse to another, any payment on account of such child or
19 children not in the legal custody of the surviving spouse shall be made
20 to the person or persons having legal custody of such child or
21 children. The amount of such payments shall be five percent of the
22 monthly benefits payable as a result of the worker's death for each
23 such child but such payments shall not exceed twenty-five percent.
24 Such payments on account of such child or children shall be subtracted
25 from the amount to which such surviving spouse would have been entitled
26 had such surviving spouse had legal custody of all of the children and
27 the surviving spouse shall receive the remainder after such payments on
28 account of such child or children have been subtracted. Such payments
29 on account of a child or children not in the legal custody of such
30 surviving spouse shall be apportioned equally among such children.

31 (c) Payments to the surviving spouse of the deceased worker shall
32 cease at the end of the month in which remarriage occurs: PROVIDED,
33 That a monthly payment shall be made to the child or children of the
34 deceased worker from the month following such remarriage in a sum equal
35 to five percent of the wages of the deceased worker for one child and
36 a sum equal to five percent for each additional child up to a maximum
37 of five such children. Payments to such child or children shall be
38 apportioned equally among such children. Such sum shall be in place of

1 any payments theretofore made for the benefit of or on account of any
2 such child or children. If the surviving spouse does not have legal
3 custody of any child or children of the deceased worker, or if after
4 the death of the worker, legal custody of such child or children passes
5 from such surviving spouse to another, any payment on account of such
6 child or children not in the legal custody of the surviving spouse
7 shall be made to the person or persons having legal custody of such
8 child or children.

9 (d) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in subsection
10 (2) of this section:

11 (i) Exceed the applicable percentage of the average monthly wage in
12 the state as computed under RCW 51.08.018 as follows:

AFTER	PERCENTAGE
June 30, 1993	105%
June 30, 1994	110%
June 30, 1995	115%
June 30, 1996	120%

13
14
15
16
17
18 (ii) For dates of injury or disease manifestation after June 30,
19 2007, be less than fifteen percent of the average monthly wage in the
20 state as computed under RCW 51.08.018 plus an additional ten dollars
21 per month for a surviving spouse and an additional ten dollars per
22 month for each child of the worker up to a maximum of five children.

23 (e) In addition to the monthly payments provided for in subsection
24 (2)(a) through (c) of this section, a surviving spouse or child or
25 children of such worker if there is no surviving spouse, or dependent
26 parent or parents, if there is no surviving spouse or child or children
27 of any such deceased worker shall be forthwith paid a sum equal to one
28 hundred percent of the average monthly wage in the state as defined in
29 RCW 51.08.018, any such children, or parents to share and share alike
30 in said sum.

31 (f) Upon remarriage of a surviving spouse the monthly payments for
32 the child or children shall continue as provided in this section, but
33 the monthly payments to such surviving spouse shall cease at the end of
34 the month during which remarriage occurs. However, after September 8,
35 1975, an otherwise eligible surviving spouse of a worker who died at
36 any time prior to or after September 8, 1975, shall have an option of:

1 (i) Receiving, once and for all, a lump sum of twenty-four times
2 the monthly compensation rate in effect on the date of remarriage
3 allocable to the spouse for himself or herself pursuant to subsection
4 (2)(a)(i) of this section and subject to any modifications specified
5 under subsection (2)(d) of this section and RCW 51.32.075(3) or fifty
6 percent of the then remaining annuity value of his or her pension,
7 whichever is the lesser: PROVIDED, That if the injury occurred prior
8 to July 28, 1991, the remarriage benefit lump sum available shall be as
9 provided in the remarriage benefit schedules then in effect; or

10 (ii) If a surviving spouse does not choose the option specified in
11 subsection (2)(f)(i) of this section to accept the lump sum payment,
12 the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a worker shall not bar him or
13 her from claiming the lump sum payment authorized in subsection
14 (2)(f)(i) of this section during the life of the remarriage, or shall
15 not prevent subsequent monthly payments to him or to her if the
16 remarriage has been terminated by death or has been dissolved or
17 annulled by valid court decree provided he or she has not previously
18 accepted the lump sum payment.

19 (g) If the surviving spouse during the remarriage should die
20 without having previously received the lump sum payment provided in
21 subsection (2)(f)(i) of this section, his or her estate shall be
22 entitled to receive the sum specified under subsection (2)(f)(i) of
23 this section or fifty percent of the then remaining annuity value of
24 his or her pension whichever is the lesser.

25 (h) The effective date of resumption of payments under subsection
26 (2)(f)(ii) of this section to a surviving spouse based upon termination
27 of a remarriage by death, annulment, or dissolution shall be the date
28 of the death or the date the judicial decree of annulment or
29 dissolution becomes final and when application for the payments has
30 been received.

31 (i) If it should be necessary to increase the reserves in the
32 reserve fund or to create a new pension reserve fund as a result of the
33 amendments in chapter 45, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess., the amount of
34 such increase in pension reserve in any such case shall be transferred
35 to the reserve fund from the supplemental pension fund.

36 (3) If there is a child or children and no surviving spouse of the
37 deceased worker or the surviving spouse is not eligible for benefits
38 under this title, a sum equal to thirty-five percent of the wages of

1 the deceased worker shall be paid monthly for one child and a sum
2 equivalent to fifteen percent of such wage shall be paid monthly for
3 each additional child, the total of such sum to be divided among such
4 children, share and share alike: PROVIDED, That benefits under this
5 subsection or subsection (4) of this section shall not exceed the
6 lesser of sixty-five percent of the wages of the deceased worker at the
7 time of his or her death or the applicable percentage of the average
8 monthly wage in the state as defined in RCW 51.08.018, as follows:

9	AFTER	PERCENTAGE
10	June 30, 1993	105%
11	June 30, 1994	110%
12	June 30, 1995	115%
13	June 30, 1996	120%

14 (4) In the event a surviving spouse receiving monthly payments
15 dies, the child or children of the deceased worker shall receive the
16 same payment as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

17 (5) If the worker leaves no surviving spouse or child, but leaves
18 a dependent or dependents, a monthly payment shall be made to each
19 dependent equal to fifty percent of the average monthly support
20 actually received by such dependent from the worker during the twelve
21 months next preceding the occurrence of the injury, but the total
22 payment to all dependents in any case shall not exceed the lesser of
23 sixty-five percent of the wages of the deceased worker at the time of
24 his or her death or the applicable percentage of the average monthly
25 wage in the state as defined in RCW 51.08.018 as follows:

26	AFTER	PERCENTAGE
27	June 30, 1993	105%
28	June 30, 1994	110%
29	June 30, 1995	115%
30	June 30, 1996	120%

31 If any dependent is under the age of eighteen years at the time of the
32 occurrence of the injury, the payment to such dependent shall cease
33 when such dependent reaches the age of eighteen years except such
34 payments shall continue until the dependent reaches age twenty-three

1 while permanently enrolled at a full time course in an accredited
2 school. The payment to any dependent shall cease if and when, under
3 the same circumstances, the necessity creating the dependency would
4 have ceased if the injury had not happened.

5 (6) For claims filed prior to July 1, 1986, if the injured worker
6 dies during the period of permanent total disability, whatever the
7 cause of death, leaving a surviving spouse, or child, or children, the
8 surviving spouse or child or children shall receive benefits as if
9 death resulted from the injury as provided in subsections (2) through
10 (4) of this section. Upon remarriage or death of such surviving
11 spouse, the payments to such child or children shall be made as
12 provided in subsection (2) of this section when the surviving spouse of
13 a deceased worker remarries.

14 (7) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1986, every worker who
15 becomes eligible for permanent total disability benefits shall elect an
16 option as provided in RCW 51.32.067.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 51.32.060 and 1993 c 521 s 2 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 (1) When the supervisor of industrial insurance shall determine
20 that permanent total disability results from the injury, the worker
21 shall receive monthly during the period of such disability:

22 (a) If married at the time of injury, sixty-five percent of his or
23 her wages (~~((but not less than two hundred fifteen dollars per month))~~).

24 (b) If married with one child at the time of injury, sixty-seven
25 percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than two hundred fifty two
26 dollars per month))~~).

27 (c) If married with two children at the time of injury, sixty-nine
28 percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than two hundred
29 eighty three dollars))~~).

30 (d) If married with three children at the time of injury,
31 seventy-one percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than three
32 hundred six dollars per month))~~).

33 (e) If married with four children at the time of injury,
34 seventy-three percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than three
35 hundred twenty nine dollars per month))~~).

36 (f) If married with five or more children at the time of injury,

1 seventy-five percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than three~~
2 ~~hundred fifty two dollars per month))~~).

3 (g) If unmarried at the time of the injury, sixty percent of his or
4 her wages (~~((but not less than one hundred eighty five dollars per~~
5 ~~month))~~).

6 (h) If unmarried with one child at the time of injury, sixty-two
7 percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than two hundred twenty two~~
8 ~~dollars per month))~~).

9 (i) If unmarried with two children at the time of injury,
10 sixty-four percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than two hundred~~
11 ~~fifty three dollars per month))~~).

12 (j) If unmarried with three children at the time of injury,
13 sixty-six percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than two hundred~~
14 ~~seventy six dollars per month))~~).

15 (k) If unmarried with four children at the time of injury,
16 sixty-eight percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than two hundred~~
17 ~~ninety nine dollars per month))~~).

18 (l) If unmarried with five or more children at the time of injury,
19 seventy percent of his or her wages (~~((but not less than three hundred~~
20 ~~twenty two dollars per month))~~).

21 (2) For any period of time where both husband and wife are entitled
22 to compensation as temporarily or totally disabled workers, only that
23 spouse having the higher wages of the two shall be entitled to claim
24 their child or children for compensation purposes.

25 (3) In case of permanent total disability, if the character of the
26 injury is such as to render the worker so physically helpless as to
27 require the hiring of the services of an attendant, the department
28 shall make monthly payments to such attendant for such services as long
29 as such requirement continues, but such payments shall not obtain or be
30 operative while the worker is receiving care under or pursuant to the
31 provisions of chapter 51.36 RCW and RCW 51.04.105.

32 (4) Should any further accident result in the permanent total
33 disability of an injured worker, he or she shall receive the pension to
34 which he or she would be entitled, notwithstanding the payment of a
35 lump sum for his or her prior injury.

36 (5) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in this
37 section:

1 (i) For claims for injuries that occurred before May 7, 1993,
2 continue in the proportion which the new earning power shall bear to
3 the old; or

4 (ii) For claims for injuries occurring on or after May 7, 1993,
5 equal eighty percent of the actual difference between the worker's
6 present wages and earning power at the time of injury, but: (A) The
7 total of these payments and the worker's present wages may not exceed
8 one hundred fifty percent of the average monthly wage in the state as
9 computed under RCW 51.08.018; (B) the payments may not exceed one
10 hundred percent of the entitlement as computed under subsection (1) of
11 this section; and (C) the payments may not be less than the worker
12 would have received if (a)(i) of this subsection had been applicable to
13 the worker's claim.

14 (b) No compensation shall be payable under this subsection (3)
15 unless the loss of earning power shall exceed five percent.

16 (4)(a) Whenever the employer of injury requests that a worker who
17 is entitled to temporary total disability under this chapter be
18 certified by a physician as able to perform available work other than
19 his or her usual work, the employer shall furnish to the physician,
20 with a copy to the worker, a statement describing the work available
21 with the employer of injury in terms that will enable the physician to
22 relate the physical activities of the job to the worker's disability.
23 The physician shall then determine whether the worker is physically
24 able to perform the work described. The worker's temporary total
25 disability payments shall continue until the worker is released by his
26 or her physician for the work, and begins the work with the employer of
27 injury. If the work thereafter comes to an end before the worker's
28 recovery is sufficient in the judgment of his or her physician to
29 permit him or her to return to his or her usual job, or to perform
30 other available work offered by the employer of injury, the worker's
31 temporary total disability payments shall be resumed. Should the
32 available work described, once undertaken by the worker, impede his or
33 her recovery to the extent that in the judgment of his or her physician
34 he or she should not continue to work, the worker's temporary total
35 disability payments shall be resumed when the worker ceases such work.

36 (b) Once the worker returns to work under the terms of this
37 subsection (4), he or she shall not be assigned by the employer to work

1 other than the available work described without the worker's written
2 consent, or without prior review and approval by the worker's
3 physician.

4 (c) If the worker returns to work under this subsection (4), any
5 employee health and welfare benefits that the worker was receiving at
6 the time of injury shall continue or be resumed at the level provided
7 at the time of injury. Such benefits shall not be continued or resumed
8 if to do so is inconsistent with the terms of the benefit program, or
9 with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement currently in
10 force.

11 (d) In the event of any dispute as to the worker's ability to
12 perform the available work offered by the employer, the department
13 shall make the final determination.

14 (5) No worker shall receive compensation for or during the day on
15 which injury was received or the three days following the same, unless
16 his or her disability shall continue for a period of fourteen
17 consecutive calendar days from date of injury: PROVIDED, That attempts
18 to return to work in the first fourteen days following the injury shall
19 not serve to break the continuity of the period of disability if the
20 disability continues fourteen days after the injury occurs.

21 (6) Should a worker suffer a temporary total disability and should
22 his or her employer at the time of the injury continue to pay him or
23 her the wages which he or she was earning at the time of such injury,
24 such injured worker shall not receive any payment provided in
25 subsection (1) of this section during the period his or her employer
26 shall so pay such wages.

27 (7) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in this
28 section:

29 (a) Exceed the applicable percentage of the average monthly wage in
30 the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018 as follows:

	AFTER	PERCENTAGE
31		
32	June 30, 1993	105%
33	June 30, 1994	110%
34	June 30, 1995	115%
35	June 30, 1996	120%

1 (b) For dates of injury or disease manifestation after June 30,
2 2007, be less than fifteen percent of the average monthly wage in the
3 state as computed under RCW 51.08.018 plus an additional ten dollars
4 per month if the worker is married and an additional ten dollars per
5 month for each child of the worker up to a maximum of five children.

6 (8) If the supervisor of industrial insurance determines that the
7 worker is voluntarily retired and is no longer attached to the work
8 force, benefits shall not be paid under this section.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate
10 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
11 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
12 June 30, 2007.

--- END ---